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Raymond Van Dyke
Suite 300 South
1001 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20004

EXAMINER
BLACKWELL, JAMES H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2176	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/828,158	RULE, JAMES W.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	James H Blackwell	2176

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _10 November 2004_.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL.**   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) _1-20_ is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) _1-20_ is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on _6/20/01; 11/10/04_ is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This Office Action is in response to Amendment received 11/10/04.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-4, 6-8, and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Bobo II (hereinafter, Bobo II ('507), U.S. Patent No. 5,675,507).

In regard to independent Claim 1, Bobo II ('507) teaches *a central database*

storing said plurality of stored documents therein in that Fig. 2 describes a process

where a message storage and delivery system (MSDS) stores facsimile, voice, and data

messages. Once received, these messages are stored in a database, and the database

is updated, the recipient is notified that a message has been received (Col. 7, lines 6-

12; Fig. 2). Bobo II ('507) also teaches *a user display device for displaying thereon at*

least one of said stored documents in that the user accesses the Internet using a

computer and web browser. Once connected with the Internet (30), at step 62, the user

accesses with a hypertext browser the Universal Resource Locator (URL) associated

with his or her MSDS (10) mailbox. The computer (32) may use any suitable hypertext

browser, such as Netscape, to access the mailbox (Col. 7, lines 26-29). Bobo II ('507)

also teaches that after the user gains access to the mailbox at step 72, the user can

request information stored within the MSDS 10. The MSDS 10 receives the request at

step 76 and, at step 78, determines whether the information exists. The request from

the user will include the mailbox number for the user, the message identifier, display

preferences, and, if the message is a facsimile message, a page identifier (*pursuant to

a given user query*). If the requested information is available, then at step 80 the

information is transmitted through the Internet 30 to the user's computer 32. If, on the

other hand, the information does not exist, then at step 82 the MSDS 10 will generate

the requested information and then send the information to the user's computer through

the Internet 30 at step 80 (*said central database forwarding said at least one document

to said user display device*)(Col. 7, lines 38-56). Bobo II ('507) also teaches that *said at

least one document containing a plurality of images* in that when the facsimile message

(document) is received, the message is in a Tagged Image File Format/Facsimile

(TIFF/F) and each page of the facsimile message (document) is split into a separate file

(Fig. 6 also teaches that multi-page message documents are possible). Hence, the fax

message can contain multiple pages (or images). Bobo II ('507) also teaches a number

of display options (see Figs. 4a and 4b, Claims 21-23). In particular, the fourth option

provides the user with a reduced size image of each page and permits the user to scroll

through the entire message. The user can therefore read the entire facsimile message

on screen before the message is downloaded onto the computer 32. With this option,

the user can go through the pages of the facsimile message and can also skip to the

next message or previous message. *Additionally, the user has the option of enlarging a

page to a full size view of the page* (Col. 9, lines 18-29). Using this fourth display option

and its additional option of enlarging a page to a full size view of the page, it would have

been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to have a user

view a first page as a full sized page, and the rest of the pages as thumbnails. Compare

this with what is claimed, *a first of said images being a full image and the remainder of*

said plurality of images being thumbnail images. The motivation for doing this would

have been to permit the user to clearly discern and/or read the content of a cover page

to determine if they wanted the entire document to be downloaded based on what the

content of the first page told them. Bobo II ('507) continues by teaching that *when a*

user of said user display device selects a given thumbnail image from said remaining

plurality of images, the central database forwards the full image corresponding to said

given thumbnail image in that several display options taught by Bobo II ('507) use

thumbnails of previous and/or next pages to link those previous and/or next thumbnails

with their full-sized images which are then retrieved from the server (Col. 10, lines 27-

37; Fig. 6, Table 1).

In regard to independent Claim 2, Bobo II ('507) teaches *selecting, by a user of a*

display device, said document stored within a central database in that Bobo II ('507)

describes that when a user selects one of the facsimile messages on the list, a request

is sent to the HTTPD within the MSDS 10 causing the message to be downloaded via

the Internet 30 to the user's computer 32 (Col. 8, lines 60-63). Bobo II ('507) also

teaches *transmitting, by said central database to said display device, said plurality of*

images corresponding to said document in that when the user selects one of the

messages on the list, the selected facsimile message is transmitted through the Internet

30 to the computer 32 (Col. 9, lines 5-7). Bobo II ('507) also teaches a number of

display options (see Figs. 4a and 4b, Claims 21-23). In particular, the fourth option

provides the user with a reduced size image of each page and permits the user to scroll

through the entire message. The user can therefore read the entire facsimile message

on screen before the message is downloaded onto the computer 32. With this option,

the user can go through the pages of the facsimile message and can also skip to the

next message or previous message. *Additionally, the user has the option of enlarging a*

page to a full size view of the page (Col. 9, lines 18-29). Using this fourth display option

and its additional option of enlarging a page to a full size view of the page, it would have

been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to have a user

view a first page as a full sized page, and the rest of the pages as thumbnails. Compare

this with what is claimed, *a first of said images being a full image and the remainder of*

said plurality of images being thumbnail images. The motivation for doing this would

have been to permit the user to clearly discern and/or read the content of a cover page

to determine if they wanted the entire document to be downloaded based on what the

content of the first page told them.

Bobo II ('507) also teaches that *when said user of said display device selects a*

given thumbnail image from said remaining plurality of images, the central database

forwards the full image corresponding to said given thumbnail image in that several

display options taught by Bobo II ('507) use thumbnails of previous and/or next pages to

link those previous and/or next thumbnails with their full-sized images which are then

retrieved from the server (Col. 10, lines 27-37; Fig. 6, Table 1).

In regard to dependent Claim 3, <u>Bobo II ('507)</u> teaches *a configuration element for providing speed and quality enhancements to processing image queries* in that the user of the MSDS 10 can define in preferences how the MSDS 10 gets configured for how the messages are reviewed. With facsimile messages, for instance, the user can vary the amount or the type of information that will be supplied with the listing of the facsimile messages by selecting an appropriate option. Other options are also available so that the user can custom fit the MSDS 10 to the user's own computer 32 or own personal preferences (Col. 8, lines 33-40). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to allow the user to decrease the amount or type of information that gets transmitted thereby speeding up the transmission of the data by transmitting a smaller file to the user. Quality can likewise be varied by the type of information provided such as temporal parameters, size of the file, etc. that could be transmitted with the listing providing the user with information that allows them to make decisions about the downloading of the documents from the server.

In regard to dependent Claim 4, <u>Bobo II ('507)</u> teaches that *the configuration element provides speed and quality enhancements to at least one of the group consisting of: cleanup of images, extraction of barcode values to automate data entry, and using database lookups to automatically populate index values* in that the facsimile messages preferably undergo signal processing so that the images of the facsimile messages are converted from a two tone black or white image into an image with a varying gray scale. As is known in the art, a gray scale image of a facsimile message provides a better image than simply a black or white image of the message. The signal

processing may comprise any suitable standard contrast curve method of processing, such as anti-aliasing or a smoothing filter. The signal processing may occur concurrently with the conversion from TIFF/F to GIF and is preferably performed for both full and reduced size images of the facsimile messages (Col. 19, lines 5-16).

In regard to dependent Claim 6, Bobo II ('507) teaches that *the stored documents include respective image identification numbers for indexing each of said plurality of images in said at least one document* in that the files for each user are stored in a separate directory assigned to just that one user because an entire directory for a given user generally can be protected easier than the individual files. The memory, however, may be organized in other ways with the files for a single user being stored in different directories. The first part of the filename is a number preferably sequentially determined according to the order in which messages arrive for that user. The preferred naming convention for ending the filenames is depicted in Fig. 6. Each page of the facsimile message is saved as a separate file with an extension defined by the format of the file. Thus, the files will end with an extension of ".TIFF," ".PPM," ".GIF," or ".HTML" according to the format of the particular file. In the example shown, the separate pages have filenames, which end with the respective page number, for instance, the first page ends with a "1." The files, however, are preferably terminated with a letter or multiples letters to indicate the order of the pages. For instance, page 1 might have an ending of "aa," page 2 might have an ending of "ab," etc (Col. 11, lines 32-45; 46-52).

In regard to dependent Claim 7, Bobo II ('507) teaches *configuring indexing information to provide speed and quality enhancements when processing image queries*

in that the files for each user are stored in a separate directory assigned to just that one

user because an entire directory for a given user generally can be protected easier than

the individual files. The memory, however, may be organized in other ways with the files

for a single user being stored in different directories. The first part of the filename is a

number preferably sequentially determined according to the order in which messages

arrive for that user. The preferred naming convention for ending the filenames is

depicted in Fig. 6. Each page of the facsimile message is saved as a separate file with

an extension defined by the format of the file. Thus, the files will end with an extension

of ".TIFF," ".PPM," ".GIF," or ".HTML" according to the format of the particular file (Col.

11, lines 32-45).

In regard to dependent Claim 8, Bobo II ('507) teaches *the step of configuring*

indexing information provides at least one further step from the group consisting of:

cleaning up the images, extracting barcode values to automate data entry, and using

database lookups to automatically populate index values in that the facsimile messages

preferably undergo signal processing so that the images of the facsimile messages are

converted from a two tone black or white image into an image with a varying gray scale.

As is known in the art, a gray scale image of a facsimile message provides a better

image than simply a black or white image of the message. The signal processing may

comprise any suitable standard contrast curve method of processing, such as anti-

aliasing or a smoothing filter. The signal processing may occur concurrently with the

conversion from TIFF/F to GIF and is preferably performed for both full and reduced

size images of the facsimile messages (Col. 19, lines 5-16).

In regard to dependent Claim 10, <u>Bobo II ('507)</u> teaches that *the document records comprise image identification numbers for indexing each of said plurality of images in said at least one document* in that the files for each user are stored in a separate directory assigned to just that one user because an entire directory for a given user generally can be protected easier than the individual files. The memory, however, may be organized in other ways with the files for a single user being stored in different directories. The first part of the filename is a number preferably sequentially determined according to the order in which messages arrive for that user. The preferred naming convention for ending the filenames is depicted in Fig. 6. Each page of the facsimile message is saved as a separate file with an extension defined by the format of the file. Thus, the files will end with an extension of ".TIFF," ".PPM," ".GIF," or ".HTML" according to the format of the particular file. In the example shown, the separate pages have filenames, which end with the respective page number, for instance, the first page ends with a "1." The files, however, are preferably terminated with a letter or multiples letters to indicate the order of the pages. For instance, page 1 might have an ending of "aa," page 2 might have an ending of "ab," etc (Col. 11, lines 32-45; 46-52).

Claims 5, and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bobo II ('507) in view of Sprague (U.S. Patent No. 5,699,458).

In regard to dependent Claim 5, <u>Bobo II ('507)</u> fails to explicitly teach that *the thumbnail images are created and stored in a single file.* However, <u>Sprague</u> teaches a "thumbnail video sequence" may be transmitted to allow browsing of the video

sequence itself, which comprises a thumbnail version of each intracoded frame within the video sequence. This would allow the viewer to efficiently preview the movie before downloading the entire sequence (Col. 10, lines 41-51). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to combine the teachings of Bobo II ('507) and Sprague as both of these inventions relate to the efficient creation, transfer, and display of material from a server to a client. Adding the teaching of Sprague provides the benefit of containing a sequence of reduced size images within a single file avoiding the situation of retrieving each frame individually. Bobo II ('507) continues by teaching *using a system identification number* in that the files for each user are stored in a separate directory assigned to just that one user because an entire directory for a given user generally can be protected easier than the individual files. The memory, however, may be organized in other ways with the files for a single user being stored in different directories. The first part of the filename is a number preferably sequentially determined according to the order in which messages arrive for that user. The preferred naming convention for ending the filenames is depicted in Fig. 6. Each page of the facsimile message is saved as a separate file with an extension defined by the format of the file. Thus, the files will end with an extension of ".TIFF," ".PPM," ".GIF," or ".HTML" according to the format of the particular file (Col. 11, lines 32-45).

In regard to dependent Claim 9, Bobo II ('507) fails to explicitly teach that *the thumbnail images are created and stored in a single file*. However, Sprague teaches a "thumbnail video sequence" may be transmitted to allow browsing of the video sequence itself, which comprises a thumbnail version of each intracoded frame within

the video sequence (Col. 10, lines 41-51). This would allow the viewer to efficiently preview the movie before downloading the entire sequence. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to combine the teachings of Bobo II ('507) and Sprague as both of these inventions relate to the efficient creation, transfer, and display of material from a server to a client. Adding the teaching of Sprague provides the benefit of containing a sequence of reduced size images within a single file avoiding the situation of retrieving each frame individually. Bobo II ('507) continues by teaching *using a system identification number* in that the files for each user are stored in a separate directory assigned to just that one user because an entire directory for a given user generally can be protected easier than the individual files. The memory, however, may be organized in other ways with the files for a single user being stored in different directories. The first part of the filename is a number preferably sequentially determined according to the order in which messages arrive for that user. The preferred naming convention for ending the filenames is depicted in Fig. 6. Each page of the facsimile message is saved as a separate file with an extension defined by the format of the file. Thus, the files will end with an extension of ".TIFF," ".PPM," ".GIF," or ".HTML" according to the format of the particular file (Col. 11, lines 32-45).

Claims 11-13, 15-18, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bobo II ('507) in view of Bobo II (hereinafter Bobo II ('066), U.S. Patent No. 6,350,066).

In regard to independent Claim 11, <u>Bobo II ('507)</u> teaches a document maker,

said document maker creating document records for each of a plurality of documents

and thumbnail representations of each image within a document in that the facsimile

messages preferably undergo signal processing so that the images of the facsimile

messages are converted from a two tone black or white image into an image with a

varying gray scale. As is known in the art, a gray scale image of a facsimile message

provides a better image than simply a black or white image of the message. The signal

processing may comprise any suitable standard contrast curve method of processing,

such as anti-aliasing or a smoothing filter. The signal processing may occur

concurrently with the conversion from TIFF/F to GIF and is preferably performed for

both full and reduced size images of the facsimile messages (Col. 19, lines 5-16). <u>Bobo</u>

<u>II ('507)</u> also teaches a central database storing said plurality of created documents

therein in that Fig. 2 describes a process where a message storage and delivery system

(MSDS) stores facsimile, voice, and data messages. Once received, these messages

are stored in a database, and the database is updated, the recipient is notified that a

message has been received. The message is then converted to HTML based on user

preferences (Col. 7, lines 6-12; Fig. 2). <u>Bobo II ('507)</u> also teaches that each document

comprising a plurality of images in that when the facsimile message (document) is

received, the message is in a Tagged Image File Format/Facsimile (TIFF/F) and each

page of the facsimile message (document) is split into a separate file (Fig. 6 also

teaches that multi-page message documents are possible) (Fig. 6). Hence, the fax

message can contain multiple pages (or images). <u>Bobo II ('507)</u> also teaches that a

corresponding plurality of image identification numbers, whereby said image

identification numbers index said plurality of documents in that in that the files for each

user are stored in a separate directory assigned to just that one user because an entire

directory for a given user generally can be protected easier than the individual files. The

memory, however, may be organized in other ways with the files for a single user being

stored in different directories. The first part of the filename is a number preferably

sequentially determined according to the order in which messages arrive for that user.

The preferred naming convention for ending the filenames is depicted in Fig. 6. Each

page of the facsimile message is saved as a separate file with an extension defined by

the format of the file. Thus, the files will end with an extension of ".TIFF," ".PPM," ".GIF,"

or ".HTML" according to the format of the particular file. In the example shown, the

separate pages have filenames, which end with the respective page number, for

instance, the first page ends with a "1." The files, however, are preferably terminated

with a letter or multiples letters to indicate the order of the pages. For instance, page 1

might have an ending of "aa," page 2 might have an ending of "ab," etc (Col. 11, lines

32-45; 46-52). Bobo II ('507) does not explicitly teach a *system journal, said system*

journal logging and tracking functions performed by the document image management

system on said documents stored in said central database. However, Bobo II ('066)

teaches logging and tracking functions performed by the document image management

system on said documents stored in said central database in a system journal element

in that one of the objects of Bobo II ('066)'s invention is to record and track

correspondence, such as facsimile messages, voice mail messages, and data transfers

(Col. 5, lines 29-31). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to combine the teachings of <u>Bobo II ('507)</u> and <u>Bobo II ('066)</u> as both essentially describe the same invention, each choosing to focus on different aspects. One benefit of recording (logging) information into and out of the system would have been to assist in tracking down illegal intrusions into the system. <u>Bobo II ('507)</u> also fails to explicitly teach *a cache controller communicating with the central database and indicating to a user-side cache the status of images*. However, <u>Bobo II ('507)</u> suggests that caching takes place in that when the MSDS receives a request for information, it first determines whether the information exists. If it does, it sends it to the user. Otherwise, the information is generated according to user preferences and sent to the user (Col. 7, lines 38-50). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to cache <u>Bobo II ('507)'s</u> invention either on the user or client-side thus avoiding repeated generation of documents. <u>Bobo II ('507)</u> also teaches *a user display device for displaying thereon at least one of said stored documents, said central database forwarding said at least one document to said user* in that the user accesses the Internet using a computer and web browser. Once connected with the Internet (30), at step 62, the user accesses with a hyper-text browser the Universal Resource Locator (URL) associated with his or her MSDS (10) mailbox. The computer (32) may use any suitable hypertext browser, such as Netscape, to access the mailbox (Col. 7, lines 26-29).

In regard to dependent Claim 12, <u>Bobo II ('507)</u> teaches *a configuration element for providing speed and quality enhancements to processing image queries* in that the

user of the MSDS 10 can define in preferences how the MSDS 10 gets configured for
how the messages are reviewed. With facsimile messages, for instance, the user can
vary the amount or the type of information that will be supplied with the listing of the
facsimile messages by selecting an appropriate option. Other options are also available
so that the user can custom fit the MSDS 10 to the user's own computer 32 or own
personal preferences (Col. 8, lines 33-40). It would have been obvious to one of
ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to allow the user to decrease the amount
or type of information that gets transmitted thereby speeding up the transmission of the
data by transmitting a smaller file to the user. Quality can likewise be varied by the type
of information provided such as temporal parameters, size of the file, etc. that could be
transmitted with the listing providing the user with information that allows them to make
decisions about the downloading of the documents from the server.

In regard to dependent Claim 13, Bobo II ('507) teaches that *the configuration
element provides speed and quality enhancements to at least one of the group
consisting of: cleanup of images, extraction of barcode values to automate data entry,
and using database lookups to automatically populate index values* in that the facsimile
messages preferably undergo signal processing so that the images of the facsimile
messages are converted from a two tone black or white image into an image with a
varying gray scale. As is known in the art, a gray scale image of a facsimile message
provides a better image than simply a black or white image of the message. The signal
processing may comprise any suitable standard contrast curve method of processing,
such as anti-aliasing or a smoothing filter. The signal processing may occur

concurrently with the conversion from TIFF/F to GIF and is preferably performed for

both full and reduced size images of the facsimile messages (Col. 19, lines 5-16).

In regard to dependent Claim 15, <u>Bobo II ('507)</u> teaches that *the stored*

documents include respective image identification numbers for indexing each of said

plurality of images in said at least one document in that the files for each user are stored

in a separate directory assigned to just that one user because an entire directory for a

given user generally can be protected easier than the individual files. The memory,

however, may be organized in other ways with the files for a single user being stored in

different directories. The first part of the filename is a number preferably sequentially

determined according to the order in which messages arrive for that user. The preferred

naming convention for ending the filenames is depicted in Fig. 6. Each page of the

facsimile message is saved as a separate file with an extension defined by the format of

the file. Thus, the files will end with an extension of ".TIFF," ".PPM," ".GIF," or ".HTML"

according to the format of the particular file. In the example shown, the separate pages

have filenames, which end with the respective page number, for instance, the first page

ends with a "1." The files, however, are preferably terminated with a letter or multiples

letters to indicate the order of the pages. For instance, page 1 might have an ending of

"aa," page 2 might have an ending of "ab," etc (Col. 11, lines 32-45; 46-52).

In regard to independent Claim 16, independent Claim 16 reflects the method for

transmitting a plurality of images within a given document as Claimed in Claim 2, and is

rejected along the same rationale. In addition, <u>Bobo II ('507)</u> fails to teach *logging and*

tracking functions performed by the document image management system on said

documents stored in said central database in a system journal element. However, <u>Bobo II ('066)</u> teaches that one of the objects of <u>Bobo II ('066)'s</u> invention is to record and track correspondence, such as facsimile messages, voice mail messages, and data transfers (Col. 5, lines 29-31). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to combine the teachings of <u>Bobo II ('507)</u> and <u>Bobo II ('066)</u> as both essentially describe the same invention, each choosing to focus on different aspects. One benefit of recording (logging) information into and out of the system would have been to assist in tracking down illegal intrusions into the system.

In regard to dependent Claim 17, <u>Bobo II ('507)</u> teaches *configuring indexing information to provide speed and quality enhancements when processing image queries* in that the files for each user are stored in a separate directory assigned to just that one user because an entire directory for a given user generally can be protected easier than the individual files. The memory, however, may be organized in other ways with the files for a single user being stored in different directories. The first part of the filename is a number preferably sequentially determined according to the order in which messages arrive for that user. The preferred naming convention for ending the filenames is depicted in Fig. 6. Each page of the facsimile message is saved as a separate file with an extension defined by the format of the file. Thus, the files will end with an extension of ".TIFF," ".PPM," ".GIF," or ".HTML" according to the format of the particular file (Col. 11, lines 32-45).

In regard to dependent Claim 18, <u>Bobo II ('507)</u> teaches *the step of configuring indexing information provides at least one further step from the group consisting of:*

cleaning up the images, extracting barcode values to automate data entry, and using

database lookups to automatically populate index values in that the facsimile messages

preferably undergo signal processing so that the images of the facsimile messages are

converted from a two tone black or white image into an image with a varying gray scale.

As is known in the art, a gray scale image of a facsimile message provides a better

image than simply a black or white image of the message. The signal processing may

comprise any suitable standard contrast curve method of processing, such as anti-

aliasing or a smoothing filter. The signal processing may occur concurrently with the

conversion from TIFF/F to GIF and is preferably performed for both full and reduced

size images of the facsimile messages (Col. 19, lines 5-16).

In regard to dependent Claim 20, <u>Bobo II ('507)</u> teaches that *the document*

records comprise image identification numbers for indexing each of said plurality of

images in said at least one document in that the files for each user are stored in a

separate directory assigned to just that one user because an entire directory for a given

user generally can be protected easier than the individual files. The memory, however,

may be organized in other ways with the files for a single user being stored in different

directories. The first part of the filename is a number preferably sequentially determined

according to the order in which messages arrive for that user. The preferred naming

convention for ending the filenames is depicted in Fig. 6. Each page of the facsimile

message is saved as a separate file with an extension defined by the format of the file.

Thus, the files will end with an extension of ".TIFF," ".PPM," ".GIF," or ".HTML"

according to the format of the particular file. In the example shown, the separate pages

have filenames, which end with the respective page number, for instance, the first page

ends with a "1." The files, however, are preferably terminated with a letter or multiples

letters to indicate the order of the pages. For instance, page 1 might have an ending of

"aa," page 2 might have an ending of "ab," etc (Col. 11, lines 32-45; 46-52).

Claims 14, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable

over Bobo II ('507) in view of Bobo II ('066) and in further view of Sprague (U.S. Patent

No. 5,699,458).

In regard to dependent Claim 14, Bobo II ('507) fails to explicitly teach that *the*

thumbnail images are created and stored in a single file. However, Sprague teaches a

"thumbnail video sequence" may be transmitted to allow browsing of the video

sequence itself, which comprises a thumbnail version of each intracoded frame within

the video sequence. This would allow the viewer to efficiently preview the movie before

downloading the entire sequence (Col. 10, lines 41-51). It would have been obvious to

one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to combine the teachings of Bobo

II ('507) and Sprague as both of these inventions relate to the efficient creation, transfer,

and display of material from a server to a client. Adding the teaching of Sprague

provides the benefit of containing a sequence of reduced size images within a single file

avoiding the situation of retrieving each frame individually. Bobo II ('507) continues by

teaching *using a system identification number* in that the files for each user are stored in

a separate directory assigned to just that one user because an entire directory for a

given user generally can be protected easier than the individual files. The memory,

however, may be organized in other ways with the files for a single user being stored in

different directories. The first part of the filename is a number preferably sequentially

determined according to the order in which messages arrive for that user. The preferred

naming convention for ending the filenames is depicted in Fig. 6. Each page of the

facsimile message is saved as a separate file with an extension defined by the format of

the file. Thus, the files will end with an extension of ".TIFF," ".PPM," ".GIF," or ".HTML"

according to the format of the particular file (Col. 11, lines 32-45).

In regard to dependent Claim 19, Bobo II ('507) fails to explicitly teach that *the*

thumbnail images are created and stored in a single file. However, Sprague teaches a

"thumbnail video sequence" may be transmitted to allow browsing of the video

sequence itself, which comprises a thumbnail version of each intracoded frame within

the video sequence (Col. 10, lines 41-51). This would allow the viewer to efficiently

preview the movie before downloading the entire sequence. It would have been obvious

to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to combine the teachings of

Bobo II ('507) and Sprague as both of these inventions relate to the efficient creation,

transfer, and display of material from a server to a client. Adding the teaching of

Sprague provides the benefit of containing a sequence of reduced size images within a

single file avoiding the situation of retrieving each frame individually. Bobo II ('507)

continues by teaching *using a system identification number* in that the files for each user

are stored in a separate directory assigned to just that one user because an entire

directory for a given user generally can be protected easier than the individual files. The

memory, however, may be organized in other ways with the files for a single user being

stored in different directories. The first part of the filename is a number preferably

sequentially determined according to the order in which messages arrive for that user.

The preferred naming convention for ending the filenames is depicted in Fig. 6. Each

page of the facsimile message is saved as a separate file with an extension defined by

the format of the file. Thus, the files will end with an extension of ".TIFF," ".PPM," ".GIF,"

or ".HTML" according to the format of the particular file (Col. 11, lines 32-45).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 and 2 have been considered but

are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James H Blackwell whose telephone number is 571-272-4089. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph H Feild can be reached on 571-272-4090. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JOSEPH FEILD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

James H. Blackwell
03/29/05